

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
TOWN HALL HEARING ROOM  
2/11/13

ATTENDEES:

Bayer*		Jenkins*	White*	McKenna*
DeCoursey	Connors*	Simmons*	Gibian*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst	Ronan	
Ferrara	Beck*	Jones*	Deshler*	
Franclemont*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

\* Indicates present

VISITORS: CRB Chair John Bilafer, CRB Administrator Richard Greco, Spy Pond Committee CoChair Brad Barber, Spy Pond Committee Members Jane Howard, Bill Eykamp, Elizabeth Karpati, Assistant DPW Director Teresa DeBenedictis, ConCom Chair Nathaniel Stevens, Reservoir Committee member Cathy Garnett, Planner Joey Glushko, Director of Human Services Christine Connolly.

MINUTES of 2/4/13 approved as corrected. Unanimous

HEARINGS

ART 24 COMPENSATION OF CRB MEMBERS: After reviewing the board's responsibilities, Bilafer stated that the regulations under which the board operates have changed. Members are required to disclose their financial condition and take 3 hrs min annual training. In exchange the annual compensation can be increased from \$3000 to \$4500. This is less than the minimum to qualify for pension benefits. Bilafer stated that the new requirements will make recruiting more difficult, especially for the 2 members from the private sector. In response to questions, Bilafer said the board holds monthly meetings. Getting out of PRIT could be difficult. Liability insurance costs \$1k/yr. Dreco will document in memo. Minutes are not posted but available on request. The training is classroom style, and covers nut & bolts. Considered worth while. The \$7500 increase will come out of the fund earnings.

ART 46 PENSION ADJUSTMENTS: Bilafer explained that this article, which must be voted annually, is intended to assure that retired long time employees retirement pay never goes below 50% of the current salary of the position they held when they retired. About 30 retirees are affected and 280 are eligible. The FY14 COLA will add about \$15k to this CRB expense.

ART 47 OPEB: Bilafer expects funding of this obligation, now on the Town's balance sheet, will eventually be mandated. Investing annually, as the Town has been doing, will reduce future expense since the invested funds will grow more quickly if not being drawn on. Funds from the non-contributory pension funds that are no longer needed have been deposited into the OPEB fund for several years. The Manager has recommended putting the left over health insurance funds into the OPEB fund. The FinCom will not vote on the CRB articles until the Finances subcommittee reports on the CRB.

ART 40 WATER BODY FUND: Jane Howard introduced the 8 people who came to support this article. Barber reviewed what the Spy Pond Committee does.

DeBenedictis, using a handout (Ref 1) reviewed the Water Bodies Account from FY06 through FY13 and presented a plan for FY14 through FY16. A fund is needed in order to be able to do treatments when most effective. She requested \$50k. DeBenedictis, supported by the group, answered many questions. Spy Pond abutter have contributed more than \$13k for phragmite control. The holding pond at McClennen Field is being

monitored. ConCom has asked Lexington ConCom for reservoir funds w/o success so far. Lexington allows their bank to be used for dewatering water chestnuts & they accept water chestnuts at their composting facility. Jerry Smith is the Town's consultant & contractor. He has been the only bidder on proposal requests. DPW does not charge use of Town equipment to the Fund.

VOTED \$50, 000 for the Water Bodies Fund. Unanimous. Beck to consult Town Counsel about the use of betterments to fund Spy Pond treatments.

ART 43 HARRY BARBER PROGRAM: Connolly, using a handout (Ref 2), described the program and stated that participants, who receive \$750, are doing useful work such as receptionist at AHS. There is no problem getting applicants. 5 positions were funded in FY13. She request funding for 10 positions.

VOTED \$7500 for the Harry Barber program. Unanimous

#### OTHER ARTICLES

ART 38 CELEBRATIONS: VOTED same as last year \$10,167. Unanimous.

ART 39 MISCELLANEOUS: Voted \$11,071 for indemnification of medical costs as recommended by Manager.. Unanimous.

ART 49 LONG TERM STABILIZATION FUND: VOTED \$100k, same as last year. Unanimous This fund now has about \$2.6m.

ART 50 OVERLAY RESERVE SURPLUS: VOTED \$200k. 15-1

ART 51 TIP FEE STABILIZATION FUND: VOTED that \$164k with any end of year balance be applied to the DPW budget. Unanimous

ART 53 FREE CASH VOTED \$3,411,528, half the certified free cash, to be applied to reduce the tax rate. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE: Next mtg 2/20. Turkall provided a revised schedule for Feb, Mar, Apr (Ref 3).

Peter Howard 2/12/13, Revised 2/20/13

cc FinCom Members, Town Web Site

Ref 1 Water Bodies Account

Ref 2 Harry Barber Community Service

Ref 3 Hearing Schedule

## VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

[illegible]

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom				
2	Board of Selectmen				
3	Town Manager				
4	Personnel				
5	Information Technology				
6	Comptroller				
7	Treasurer				
8	Postage				
9	Assessors				
10	Legal				
11	Town Clerk				
12	Registrar of Voters				
13	Parking				
14	Planning				
15	Redevelopment Board				
16	Zoning Board of Appeals				
17	Public Works				
17g	Street Lights				
18a	Community Safety Admin				
18b	Police				
18c	Fire				
18d	Support				
19	Inspections				
20	Education				
21	Library				
22a	Health & Human Services				
22b	Veterans				
22c	COA				
23	Retirement				
24	Insurance				
25	Reserve Fund				=
W&S EF	Rev Exp				
Rec EF	Rev Exp				
Rnk EF	Rev Exp				
COA EF	Rev Exp				
Youth EF	Rev Exp				

**Water Bodies Account**

Report Date: 02/06/2013 - THD

History of Expenditures - does not include phragmites acct

	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>FY12</b>	<b>FY13</b>
Spy Pond	\$ 11,638.50	\$ 4,995.00		\$ 6,063.12	\$ 38,164.20	\$ 4,935.00		\$ 35,250.00
Reservoir		\$ 2,497.50	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,125.50		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 21,400.00
Hills		\$ 2,497.50						\$ 1,410.00
Total	\$ 11,638.50	\$ 9,990.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,063.12	\$ 41,289.70	\$ 4,935.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 58,060.00

**Water Bodies Account History**

	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>FY12</b>	<b>FY13</b>
Carryover				\$ 40,113.05	\$ 34,649.93	\$ 8,360.23	\$ 18,425.23	\$ 19,425.23
Revenue/Appropriation				\$ 600.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Revenue/Donations							\$ 1,000.00	
Expenses				\$ (6,063.12)	\$ (41,289.70)	\$ (4,935.00)	\$ (20,000.00)	\$ (58,060.00)
Balance				\$ 34,649.93	\$ 8,360.23	\$ 18,425.23	\$ 19,425.23	\$ 11,365.23

**Phragmites Acct - Spy Pond - supported by donations - for use on phragmites only**

	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>FY12</b>	<b>FY13</b>
Carryover					\$ -	\$ 5,361.00	\$ 5,821.00	\$ 4,120.00
Revenue					\$ 9,161.00	\$ 4,060.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Expenses					\$ (3,800.00)	\$ (3,600.00)	\$ (1,801.00)	\$ -
Balance					\$ 5,361.00	\$ 5,821.00	\$ 4,120.00	\$ 4,120.00

Account Balance			\$ 34,649.93	\$ 13,721.23	\$ 24,246.23	\$ 23,545.23	\$ 15,485.23
Phragmites fund			\$ -	\$ (5,361.00)	\$ (5,821.00)	\$ (4,120.00)	\$ (4,120.00)
<b>Available Balance</b>			<b>\$ 34,649.93</b>	<b>\$ 8,360.23</b>	<b>\$ 18,425.23</b>	<b>\$ 19,425.23</b>	<b>\$ 11,365.23</b>

Actual and Encumbered

Detail - FY 13 - Expenses								
Project	PO#	Report due	Spy Pond	Reservoir	Hills	FY Total	Spent to date	\$\$ available
water chestnuts/mechanical harvest	1301738	N		20,000		20,000	20,000	-
water shed assessment	1301736	Y	8,920			8,920	-	8,920
water quality survey	1301722	Y	6,920	1,400	1,410	9,730	3,892	5,838
treatment/reward	1301737	N	9,650			9,650	9,650	-
Algae monitor/treat	1301721	Y	9,760			9,760	2,925	6,835
Total			\$ 35,250	\$ 21,400	\$ 1,410	\$ 58,060	\$ 36,467	\$ 21,593

Detail - FY 14 - Budget			Spy Pond	Reservoir	Hills	FY Total		
treatment/sonar			35,000			35,000		
water chestnuts/mechanical harvest				20,000		20,000		
algae treatment			5,000			5,000		
water quality testing/plant id			4,000	1,000	500	5,500		
Total			\$ 44,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 500	\$ 65,500	\$ -	\$ -

Detail - FY 15 - Budget Projection			Spy Pond	Reservoir	Hills	FY Total		
treatment/sonar - spend in FY17			12,000			12,000		
treatment/reward			10,000			10,000		
water chestnuts/hand pull				10,000		10,000		
algae treatment			5,000			5,000		
water quality testing/plant id			4,000	1,000	500	5,500		
Total			\$ 31,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 500	\$ 42,500	\$ -	\$ -

Detail - FY 16 - Budget Projection			Spy Pond	Reservoir	Hills	FY Total		
treatment/sonar - spend in FY17			12,000			12,000		
treatment/reward			10,000			10,000		
water chestnuts/hand pull				5,000		5,000		
algae treatment			5,000			5,000		
water quality testing/plant id			4,000	1,000	500	5,500		
Total			\$ 31,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 500	\$ 37,500	\$ -	\$ -

# Harry Barber Community Service

Ref 2

FY13: Five positions available, \$750 each for a total of \$3,750

**Request for FY14: Ten (10) positions, maximum earnings \$750 pp for a total budget of \$7,500**

Many communities in the Commonwealth have adopted MGL Chapter 59, sub section 5k, known as The Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program. Arlington has not adopted this law into Town By-Laws, however created The Harry Barber Community Service Program in 1997, providing employment for a specific number of Arlington seniors; including home owners and renters without subsidies. There are qualifying income guidelines and the Harry Barber (HB) approved applicant may not earn more than \$750.00 per year through this program.

This funding for this program varies by year and was not funded in FY12. In FY13 this program provided five (5) seniors the opportunity to work for 93.75 hours earning up to \$750 in cash. Total allocation in FY13 for this program was \$3,750. To date we have four completed applications and placement along with six packages that have been mailed for completion. This program is supervised by the Executive Director of the Council on Aging and is managed on a first come first served basis.

At the beginning of the program start date, all departments were emailed the notice to participate. In the past participants have been engaged in the Library, School District, Police Department, and the Council on Aging. Currently placements are working in the Arlington Library, Arlington High School, Recreation Department, and the Council on Aging. Placement locations have reported the relationship with the HB participant and the "job", have been excellent. The benefits to the Arlington community are great:

1. Municipal departments fill a void where budgets are lacking
2. Municipal departments may use the HB participant to complete special projects or conversely, free up time of a regular employee to work on special projects
3. The cost benefit exceeds the program costs; the municipality pays \$8 per hour for a HB participant to perform work providing a cost savings to the town of Arlington
4. Provides older adults an opportunity to develop new transferable skills
5. Provides the older adult an opportunity to contribute to the town in a meaningful way
6. Provides all ages in Arlington an opportunity to see older adult as viable, contributing members of the town
7. Provides peer leadership to those older adults who might feel as though they are no longer viable community members
8. Helps break down ageism
9. Provides the retired senior a small means of income to offset the rising expenses in housing, food, fuel, or social engagement
10. Provides some seniors funds where social service support falls short due to income guidelines

The Board of the Council on Aging along with the Executive Director highly endorses the Harry Barber Community Service Program for seniors in the Town of Arlington. Given the increase in requests, we are certain, if approved, that all ten (10) positions will be filled in FY14.

**2013 Finance Committee Hearing Schedule**  
**(2/11/2013)**

Ref3

**FEBRUARY 4** -  
7:45-Town Manager Presentation

**FEBRUARY 6** - NO MEETING

**FEBRUARY 11** -  
7:30-Retirement Warrant Articles  
8:15-Water Bodies Article  
8:30-Harry Barber Article

**FEBRUARY 13**

**FEBRUARY 18** - Holiday

**FEBRUARY 20**

**FEBRUARY 25**  
7:45-Electronic Voting Articles  
8:15-Tourism Articles & Committee  
Appropriation  
8:45-Uncle Sam

**FEBRUARY 27**

**MARCH 4**

**MARCH 6**

**MARCH 11**

**MARCH 13**

**MARCH 18**  
7:45-Capital Planning Committee

**MARCH 20**  
7:45-School Budget Presentation

**MARCH 25**

**MARCH 27**

**April 1**

**April 3**

**April 8**

**April 10**